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JORDANHILL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Southbrae Drive, Glasgow, G13 1PP

Telephone 041-959 1232

PRINCIPAL

T.R. Bone MA, MED. PH.D.

Dr. T.R. Bone,
Principal.

Dear Tom,

n/p
I am writing to you to ask if the College would give financial assistance to a small community run school opening in Barrowfield. Enclosed is a description of the school. This is one project I would be more keen than any other to ~~commit~~ ^{commit} to you. Last year, Brian Addison, an honours graduate, was in my option and proved to be the kind of student that would make our job the most rewarding one in the world. He left Jordanhill to go to a job in North Kelvinside where he has been, I think, an outstanding teacher. The headmaster concurs with this opinion; ~~and~~ when he found out that Brian planned to leave North Kelvinside to start a community school in Barrowfield he went to speak to the Director of Education on Brian's behalf.

Perhaps understandably Glasgow Education Department was not willing to commit themselves to support the scheme.
Brian lived very comfortably in Kilmaurs in a small cottage he renovated himself and seemed to have a promising career ahead of him. He decided he wanted to do a lot more for the "deprived" we talk about so much at Jordanhill. I introduced him to a community worker in the Barrowfield area who then put him in touch with the Tenant's Association. It became obvious from his conversations with them that they felt an urgent need for better educational provision for their children, a huge percentage of whom were totally illiterate, or at least functionally illiterate. On their own initiative they were setting up a centre where unemployed adolescents or anyone else could be taught to read. They themselves did not possess the know how and were soliciting the help of an 'expert'. Furthermore there turned out to be an alarmingly high rate of truancy in the area, particularly for some children. In an educational field full of dubious opinion, contentious 'fact' and value-judgements, one thing is at least agreed, that schools consistently fail the most deprived sector and indeed, despite the millions of dollars worth of research in the States, cannot find the answer. There is no guarantee that the kind of school that Brian will be starting will provide a panacea, but the odds are considerably increased. In Brian's favour will be the small tutor-pupil ratio which will afford time for a great deal of individual tuition, an intimate knowledge of each child, and the flexibility to deal with his needs in a non-threatening environment. He has already enlisted the sympathy and involvement of the parents who will at least try to back up his efforts. *He has a realistic appreciation of the problems involved and has given up his college, and his salary, and is prepared to go ahead on an act of faith.*

Brian is no woolly-headed Romantic. ~~and~~ He has already found the support of three others who, I think, are particularly well-qualified for some of the problems of Barrowfield children. Two are Froebel trained (or shortly will be), while the other will be the holder of a primary diploma. Among the four of them they provide an interesting spectrum of competencies. At present they have only eight children but this number will rapidly grow (hopefully not too rapidly and to not too high a level since it is imperative to keep the teacher-pupil ratio low).

I feel particularly that this deserves the support of the College since ;

- they are all Jordanhill students, three at present still in training
- a great deal of research financed by the College could not claim to have the tangible outcomes of this project, which might well be described as "action-research"
- as a member of staff at the College and already fairly involved with the kids and parents in Barrowfield would deem this more worthy of support ~~than any other~~ ^{than any other} ventures I ~~could~~ ^{could} embark on ~~but might like to embark on~~ ^{might like to embark on} with the financial blessing of the College.

The only finance at present is from the parents themselves who are willing to raise funds and £5 per week from a discotheque they run in the area. The S.R.C. is, I believe, contributing a small sum, and individual students at the College have offered help. As you can appreciate this is thin gruel for a ~~venture~~ the equipping and running of a school, buying books and equipment and a form of transport, and helping four teachers find a living. The school will continue to run no matter how meagre the finances; ~~xxxxxx~~ the question is ~~to what degree~~ ^{to what degree} can Jordanhill support this venture to ~~make~~ ^{give} it a much higher possibility of success? ~~to what degree can the enterprise be sustained and its chances improved?~~

I feel very strongly that when this College we can have an effect on people that will move them to dedicate themselves to this extent for an educational cause ~~xxxxxx~~ this is our most conspicuous success, and they deserve our support. I most sincerely commend this to you.

Yours truly,

[Faint, mostly illegible text follows, appearing to be a carbon copy or a very faded original. Some legible fragments include:]

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[The rest of the page contains extremely faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]